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/Steven J. Hultquist/

**RESPONSE TO JANUARY 8, 2008 RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT IN U.S. PATENT
APPLICATION NO. 10/539,677**

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

This responds to the January 8, 2008 Office Action in the above-identified application.

In the January 8, 2008 Office Action, the Examiner has required restriction under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 between:

- Group I claims 3-11, drawn to a therapeutic composition comprising at least one peptide having an amino sequence selected from SEQ ID NO: 1-6;
- Group II claims 12-16, drawn to a method of inducing production of neutralizing Tat antibodies that inhibit internalization of Tat into T-cell;
- Group III claims 22-28 drawn to a polynucleotide sequence encoding at least about 15 to about 21 amino residues from the amino terminus region of HIV Tat; and an expression vector comprising the polynucleotide;
- Group IV claims 32 drawn to a method of expressing a Tat amino terminus linear epitope peptide using the polynucleotide sequence encoding at least about 15 to about 21 amino acid residues from the amino acid residues from the amino terminus region of HIV Tat;
- Group V claim 37 drawn to the special technical feature of an antibody immunoreactive with a Tat amino terminus linear epitope; and
- Group VI claim 40 drawn to a method of producing an antibody that is immunoreactive with a Tat amino terminus linear epitope peptide.

In response, applicants hereby elect Group I claims 3-11.

Such election is hereby made with the request that upon finding of allowable subject matter in the elected Group I claims, the non-elected method claims of Groups II, IV and VI be rejoined with the Group I claims, under the provisions of MPEP 821.04.

The January 8, 2008 Office Action also contains a species election requirement, between the following species of carrier proteins:

- (1) Gag or fragments thereof;
- (2) Env or fragments thereof;
- (3) Nef or fragments thereof; and
- (4) ovalbumin.

In response, applicants hereby elect Gag or fragments thereof.

The elected claims readable on such species are claims 3-11.

It is requested that the examination of this application proceed, consistent with the foregoing elections.

Respectfully submitted,

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